

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Finance Minister while presenting the Budget for 2001-2002 has stated that "all requirements of recruitment will be scrutinised to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent of total civilian staff strength. As about 3 per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower by 2 per cent per annum achieving a reduction of 10 per cent in five years as announced by the Prime Minister." The Department of Personnel and Training has issued instructions to all Ministries and Departments of Government of India on 16 May, 2001 with a view to limiting the recruitment to one-third of the direct recruitment vacancies occurring in each year subject to further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

(c) and (d) It has increasingly been felt that the size of the bureaucracy has overgrown over a period of time and is having adverse impact on its efficacy. The instructions dated 16.5.2001 have been issued with the primary objective of rightsizing the Government manpower.

Governance Reforms

1332. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested to Government for "Governance Reforms" by reshaping the bureaucracy so that it discharges its functions effectively thereby providing better and transparent services to the citizens;

(b) if so, whether these recommendations are proposed to be implemented both by the Central and State Governments;

(c) whether any blueprint in this regard has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) In the course of the mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan and formulation of the Approach Paper for the Tenth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has made certain suggestions regarding reforms in governance practices with a view to reshaping the bureaucracy and improving its effectiveness in discharging its functions. The draft Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council. In the meanwhile, the Government has taken several steps to improve the quality of public service delivery. These steps include:

- (i) Review of Administrative Laws with a view to simplify the existing Laws and repeal such Laws which have become dysfunctional.
- (ii) Formulation and operationalism of Citizen's Charters by various Ministries/Departments of Central Government.
- (iii) Setting up of Information & Facilitation Counters in Ministries/Departments/Organizations of Government of India.
- (iv) Strengthening of the Grievance Redress Mechanism in the Ministries/Departments.
- (v) Implementation of a Minimum Agenda for e-Governance.
- (vi) Documentation & Dissemination of Best Practices.
- (viii) Institution of websites by various Ministries/Departments.
- (viii) Introduction of Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha in July, 2000.